GREENES GHOST HAVNTING CONIE-CATCHERS.

Wherein is set downe,

The Arte of Humouring.
The Arte of carrying Stones.
Will. St. List.
Ia. Fost. Law.
Ned Bro. Catch. *and*
Blacke Robins Kindnesse.

With the conceits of Doctor Pinch-backe a notable Makeshift.

Ten times more pleasant then any thing yet *published of this matter.*

Non ad imitandum, sed ad euitandum.

LONDON,
Printed for R. Iackson, and I. North,
and are to be sold in Fleetstreete,
a little aboue the Conduit.
1602.

TO ALL GENTLEMEN, MERchants, Apprentiſes, Farmers, and *plaine countrimen, health.*

IT is moſt true, Gentlemen, and woſull experience dayly teacheth vs, that the more carefull Princes are in erecting & eſtabliſhing good lawes, for the rooting out of vice in the common wealth, the more repugnant (the diuell altogether predominant ouer them) do euil diſpoſed perſons, caterpillers, and the off-ſcumme of the world (and therfore to be reiected and excommunicated from the fellowſhip of all honeſt men) oppoſe themſelues againſt God and good gouernement, and in ſteede of an honeſt and ciuill cariage (which the Lawe preſcribes them) betake them to a moſt hatefull, vicious, and deteſtable life: Who, as they may well be compared to vipers, moſt venimous and ſpitefull beaſts, that for their venime and poiſon are hated and ſhunned of all men, as moſt preiudiciall creatures: ſo theſe baſe people, not once thinking of an honeſt courſe of life, truſting vpon their owne mother wits, dayly deuiſe newe ſhifts and policies, to fleece the plaine dealing man, and by that meanes growe into more hate amongſt honeſt men, then do the hated Iewes at this day: and the name of Conicatchers is ſo odious, that now a dayes it is had vp, and vſed for an opprobrious name for euerie one that ſheweth the leaſt occaſion of deceit. The bookes that were not long ago ſet forth, concerning Conie-catching and croſſe-biting, and the diſcouerie of each (if anie ſparke of grace were) might haue beene ſo manie reſtraints

and bridles to call them from that abominable life, but they that are giuen ouer to their owne hearts lust, with all their might inueigh both against them and their Authour.

I haue therefore, Gentlemen, as one inforced (*amore patriæ*) taken in hand to publish this little Pamphlet (which by a very friend came by a chance to my hands, and adding somewhat of mine owne knowledge, and vpon verie credible information) most necessarie in my mind for the good of the common wealth, both for all men to see, what grosse villanies are now practised in the bright Sunne-shine, that thereby they may be forewarned to take heede how they conuerse with such cosoning companions: as also a iust checke and controll to such wicked liuers, that they perceiuing their goodnesse set abroch, may with remorse and penitencie forsake their abominable course of life, and betake them to a more honest and ciuill behauiour. If any with the spider heere seeke to sucke poison, let such a one take heede, that in practising his villany he chaunce commence Bachelor in Whittington Colledge, and so in good time take his degrees and proceede Doctor, and thence with a solemne procession take possession of doctor *Stories* cappe; to which some of the worshipfull companie of Conicatchers haue worthily heretofore attained.

In this Treatise (louing countrimen) you shall see what shifts this crue of hellhounds haue put in practise since the Bookes of Conicatching came forth, vnder these names, viz. *The Art of Humoring. The Art of carrying stones. W. St Lift. Ia. lawe. Ned Br. catch*, and *Blacke Robins kindnesse*: Wherein are manifested the nature of Humorists, such as can insinuate themselues into euerie mans companie: & as they see him addicted, so will they verse vpon him, what policies they haue to purloine goods out of shops vnder the pretence of plainnesse, what shifts they haue to cosen poore Alewiues, by the art of carrying stones, what inconuenience may come by following flattering strumpets, I know not I what should be the cause why so innumerable harlots and Cuttizans abide about London, but because that good lawes are not looked vnto: is there not one appointed for the apprehending of such hell-

moths,

moths, that eat a man out of bodie & soule? And yet there be more notorious strumpets & their mates about the Citie and the suburbs, then euer were before the Marshall was appointed: idle mates I meane, that vnder the habit of a Gentleman or seruing man, think themselues free from the whip, although they can giue no honest account of their life. I could wish, and so it is to be wished of euery honest subiect, that *Amasis* lawe were receiued, who ordained that euerie man at the yeares end should giue an account to the Magistrate how hee liued, and he that did not so, or could not make an account of an honest life to be put to death as a fellon, without fauor or pardon: What then should become of a number of our vpstart gallants, that liue only by the sweate of other mens browes, and are the decay of the forwardest Gentlemen and best wits? Then should we haue fewer conicatching strumpets, who are the verie causes of all the plagues that happen to this flourishing common wealth. They are the destruction of so manie Gentlemen in England. By them many Lordships come to ruine. What dangers growe by dallying with such vnchast Libertines, and what inconuenience followes by their inordinat pleasures, let those that haue had wofull experience and maister Surgeon together testifie: nay, they not onely indanger the bodie by lothsom diseases, but ingraue a perpetuall shame in the forehead of the partie, and finally consume his soule and make him fit for the diuell.

To leaue these base companions (that can by no wholsom counsell, nor aduised perswasions bee dissuaded from their lothsom kind of life, nor called to any honest course of liuing) in the dregges of their dishonesty. Would it please the honorable and worshipfull of the land to take order for the cutting off of these cosoners, and consuming cankers of this common wealth, they should not only cause a blessing to be powred on this flourishing state, but haue the prayers of euery good subiect for their prosperous healths and welfare. And thus Gentlemen, I conclude with this farewell: God either conuert or confound such base companions.

Yours to vse,
S. R.

To the Reader.

VSe and peruse not with a curious eye,
For Truth oft's blamde, yet neuer telleth lie.
I tell not I, what forraine men haue done,
But follow that which others haue vs gun.
No learned Clearke in Schooles that vse to write,
But Enuie makes their labours some to spite.
What then shall I, that write a homely stile,
Thinke but to haue a homely scoffing smile.
But these and those that either mocke or skorne,
Would they might weare (faire sight) Acteons horne.
But you kind friends, that loue your countries wealth,
Vouch of my labours, good fortune guide your health.
To pleasure most, and profit all's my end,
My greatest care to please both foe and friend.
Reade then kind friends, my trauell heere you haue,
I looke for nought, nought but your loues I craue.

GREENES GHOST
haunting Conicatchers.

THere hath bene of late dates published two merrie and pithie Pamphlets of the arte of Conicatching: wherin the Author hath sufficiently expressed his experiece, as also his loue to his Countrie. Neuertheleſſe with the Authors leaue, I will ouerlooke ſome lawe tearmes expreſſed in the firſt part of Conicatching: whereunto, as the Author ſaith, is neceſſarilie required three parties: *The ſetter, the Verſer, and the Barnacle.* Indeed I haue heard ſome retainers to this ancient trade diſpute of his proceedings in this caſe, and by them in a full Synode of quart pots it was thoroughlie examined and concluded, that there were no ſuch names, as he hath ſet downe, nor anie cheating Arte ſo chriſtened as Conicatching. Marie, in effect there is the like vnderhand traffique daylie vſed and experienced among ſome few ſtart vp Gallants diſperſt about the ſuburbs of London, who tearmes him that drawes the fiſh to the bait, the Beater, and not the Setter: the Tauerne where they go, the Buſh, and the fole ſo caught, the Bird. As for Conicatching, they cleape it Barſowling, the wine the Strap, and the cards the Limetwigs. Now for the compaſſing of a woodcocke to worke on, and the fetching him into the wine bench of his wracke, is right beating the buſh. The good alle is he will be dealt vpon, ſtouping to the lure if he be ſo wiſe as to keep alofe, a Haggard; and he whom

he

he makes Verser the Retriuer, and the Barnacle the Porhunter.

But all this breakes no square, so long as we concurre *in eodem subiecto*: yet I wish, that as he hath loked into these wicked actions opened therein, so he had also loked into other grosse sinnes, which are séeded in the hearts of sundrie persons. Extortion had béene a large theame to haue wrought vpon: and with the Vsurers bagges full of gold he might haue handled another pretie Treatise: He might haue brought forth Iustice weying bread, and the Baker putting his eares in the ballance to make euen weight. He should haue personated the Thames most pitifully complaining, what monstrous hauocke the Brewers make of her water, without all remorse or compassion: and how they put in willowe leaues and browne buds into their wort in stead of hoppes. Solikewise a Christian exhortation to mother Bunch would not haue done amisse, that she should not mire lime with her Ale, to make it mightie, or cozen the Queenes liege people of their drink, by fubbing them off with these slender wasted blacke pots and Cannes, that will hold little more then a Sering. A profitable Treatise might haue also béene published for such companions to loke into, as for good fellowship will not sticke to lend two or thrée false oathes to defeate the widdow and fatherlesse of their right, though in short space after they lose their eares for their labour. A perswasion against pride had béene verie profitable: and an exhortation against swearing had béene a thing commendable, if he had in a pleasant Treatise shewed the folly of pong youthes and idle queanes; which entring into the seruice of sundrie honest persons, continue there no longer then they can cleanly conuay some sufficient cariage for their present maintenance. Then had he done well, and peradventure giuen such light to sundrie honest housholders, that they would be carefull what persons they had receiued into their houses or put in trust about their businesse.

There might haue also béene compiled a delectable and pleasant

pleasant Treatise of the abuse committed by such as sell bottle ale, who to make it fly vp to the top of the house at the first opening do put gunpowder into the bottles while the ale is new. Then by stopping it close, make the people beléeue it is the strength of the ale, when being truly sifted it is nothing indeed but the strength of the gunpowder that worketh the effect, to the great heart-burning of the parties that drinke the same. I would haue had him touch the contrarietie of apparell, and set downe reasons to dissuade men from wearing French peakes, because they are good for nothing but to stab men, as also told the vse of the terrible cut, and the Swallow taile flash.

To leaue dallance and come to the matter. I will informe you what policies haue beene practised since the books of Conicatching were set forth. These Batfowlers or Conicatchers hauing lost a collop of their liuing, by communicating their secrets with babling companions, haue now inuented a newe tricke to fetch in the pence. They disguise themselues like Apparitors or Sumners, and come to a young Gentleman, Merchant, or old pinch-crust, as it mate fall out, that hath gotten a maid, a mans daughter, or this widdow or ordinarie woman with child, or at least haue beene more neere with them then they should: and them they threaten with processe, citations, the whip, or the white sheete at least, vntill they come to compositiõ. The timorous sonles fearing to be made a byword of shame to the whole Citie, bribe them with all that euer they can rap and rend, to holde their peace, and saue their honestie. They will vrge the strictnesse of their oath, and the danger of the law in such cases of concealement, vntill they can see them come off roundly: then they will hamme and haule, and sate they are not euery bodie, and so take their mony, and returne laughing in their sleeues, to thinke how they cosoned them.

Within short time after they send another of their copesmates after the same sort, and he gines them the like pluck. And so two or three one after the other, shall neuer leaue

afflicting his ghost, till they haue made him as bare as a birds taile, so as he hath not one pennie more to saue him from hanging, if néede were. A monstrous abuse of authoritie, and hindrance to the courts of Justice, that haue the ouersight of such offences.

Other there be that do nothing but ride vp and downe the countrie, like yong merchants a wooing, and they will marrie euerie moneth a new wife, & then fleece her of all she hath, that done run away, and learne where another rich widow dwelleth, and serue her after the same sort: so rounding England, til they haue pickt vp their crummes, and got enough to maintaine them all their life after.

But exceeding all these are the fine sleights of our Italian humourists, who being men for all companies, will by once conuersing with a man so draw him to them, that he shall thinke nothing in the world too deare for them, nor once be able to part them, vntill they haue spent all they haue on them.

If he be lasciuiously addicted they haue Aretines Tables at his fingers ends, to néede him on with new kinde of filthinesse: they will come in with Rowse the French painter, and shew what an vnlawfull vainebe had in bandrie: not a whore nor a queane about the towne but they knowe, and can tell her markes, and where, and with whom shée hosts.

If they sée you couetously bent, they will discourse wonders of the Philosophers stone, and make you beléeue they can make gold of gose-grease, only you must be at some two or thrée hundred pound charge, or such a small trifle, to helpe to set vp their stilles, and then you néede not care where you beg your bread: for they will make you do little better, if you follow their prescriptions.

Discourse with them of countries, they will set you on fire with travelling: yea what place is it they will not sweare they haue béene in, and I warrant you tell such a sound tale, as if it were all Gospell they spake. Not a corner in Fraunce but they can describe. Venice, why? It is nothing, for they haue intelligence of it euerie houre, and

at

at euerie word will come in with Siado Curtizano, tell you such miracles of Madame Padilia and Romana Impia, that you will be mad till you be out of England: & if he see you are caught with this baite he will make as though he will leaue you, and faine businesse about the Court, or that such a Noble man sent for him, when you will rather consent to robbe all your friends then bee seuered from him one houre. If you request his companie to trauelle, he will say, In faith I cannot tell, I would sooner spend my life in your companie, then in ante mans in England. But at this time I am not so prouided of monie as I would: therefore I can make no promise: and if a man should aduenture vpon such a iourney without money, it were miserable and base, and no man will care for vs. But monie say you (like a liberall young maister) take no care for that, for I haue so much land, and I will sell it, my credits is worth so much, and I will vse it. I haue the keeping of a Cosens chamber of mine, which is an old counsellour, and be this vacation time is gone downe into the countrie, we will breake vp his studie, rifle his chestes, diue into the bottome of his bagges, but we will haue to serue our turne, rather then faile we will sell his bookes, pawne his bedding & hangings, and make riddance of all his households stuffe to set vs packing. To this he listens a little, and saith, These are some hopes yet, but if he should goe with you, and you haue monie, and he none, you will dominére ouer him at your pleasure, & then he were wel set vp to leaue such possibilities in Englād, & be made a slaue in another countrie. With that you offer to part halfes with him, or put al into his custody, before he should think you meant otherwise then wel with him. He takes you at your offer, and promiseth to husband it so for you, that you shall spend with the best, and yet not wast halfe so much as you do. Which makes you (meaning simplie) to put him in trust, and giue him the purse. Then all a bone voyage into the lowe Countries you trudge, and so trauelle vp into Italy, but *per varios casus, & tot discrimina rerum*, in a

 towne

towne of garrison he leaues you, runnes awaie with your monie, and makes you glad to betake your selfe to pronant and become a Gentleman of a companie. If he feare you will make after him he will change his name: and if there be anie Gentleman or other in the countrie, he will borrow his name and creepe into his kinred, or it shall cost him a fall, and make him paie sweetly for it in the end, if he take not the better heed. Thus will he be sure to haue one Alse or other a foote to keepe himselfe in pleasing.

There is no Arte but he will haue a superficiall sight into, and put downe euerie man with talke: and when he hath vttred the most he can, make men beleeue he knowes ten times more then he will put into their heads, which are secrets not to be made common to euerie one.

He will perswade you he hath twentie receits of loue powders, that he can frame a ring with such a deuise, that if a wench put it on her finger she shal not chose but follow you vp and downe the streetes.

If you haue an enemy that you would be faine rid of, he will teach you to poison him with your verie lokes: to stand on the top of Poules with a burning glasse in your hand, and cast the same with such a force on a mans face that walkes vnder, that it shall strike him stark dead, more violently then lightning.

To fill a letter full of needles, which shall be laid after such a mathematical order, that when he opens it, to whom it is sent, they shall spring vp and flie into his bodie forcibly, as if they had beene blowne vp with gunpowder, or sent from a Caltrers mouth like small shot.

To conclude, he will haue such probable reasons to procure beleefe to his lies, such a smooth tongue to deliuer them, and set them forth with such a grace, that he should be a verie wise man did not swallow the Gudgin at his hands.

In this sort haue I knowne sundrie young Gentlemen of England trained forth to their owne destruction, which makes me the more willing to publish this discourse

course, the better to forewarne other of such Batfowling companions; as also for the rooting out of these insinuating moth-wormes that eate men out of their substance vnseene, and are the decaie of the forwardest Gentlemen and best wits.

How manie haue we about London, ý to the disgrace of Gentlemen liue gentlemanlike of themselues hauing neither mony nor land, nor any lawful means to maintain them, some by play, and then they go a mumming into the countrie all the Christmas time with false dice, or if there be anie place where Gentlemen or merchants frequent in the Citie, or anie towne corporate, thither will they, either disguised like to yong merchants, or substantiall Citizens, and draw them all drie that euer dealt with them.

There are some that doe nothing but walke vp and downe Paules, or come to shops to buy wares, with budgets of writings vnder their armes: and these will vrge talke with anie man about their suites in law, and discourse vnto them how these and these mens bands they haue for money, that are the chiefest dealers in London, Norwich, Brisstow, and such like places, and complaine that they can not get one penne. Why, if such a one doth owe it you (saith some man that knowes him) I durst buy the debt of you, let me get it of him as I can. O saith my budget-man, I haue his hand and seale to shewe, loke here els: and with that pluckes out a counterfeit band (as all other his writings are) and reades it to him. Whereupon for halfe in halfe they presently compound, and after that hee hath that ten pounds paid him for his band of twentie besides the forfeiture, or so forth, he sayes, Faith these Lawyers drinke me as drie as a sieue, and I haue mony to pay at such a date, and I doubt I shall not be able to compasse it: here are all the leases and euidences of my land lying in such a shire, I would you would lend me fortie pounds on them till the nert tearme, or for some fire moneths, and then either it shall be repayd with interest, or I will forfeit my whole inheritãce, which is better worth then a hundred

marks a yeare.

The wealthie retailer, citizen, merchant, Gentleman or young nouice that hath store of crownes lying by him, greedy of such a bargaine, thinking perhaps by one clause or other to defeat him of all he hath, lends him the mony, and takes a faire statute merchant of his lands before a Iudge, but when all comes to all, he hath no more land in England then seuen foote in the Church yard, neither is his inheritance either in *Posse* or *Esse*, then a paire of gallowes in a greene field, nor do anie such occupiers knowe him, much lesse owe him anie money, whereby the couetous person is cheated fortie or fiftie pounds thick at one clap.

Not vnlike to these are they, that comming to Ordinaries about the Exchange where Merchants do table for the most part, will saie they haue two or three ships of coales late come from Newcastle, and wish they could light on a good chapman that would deale for them altogether. What is your price, saith one? What's your price, saith another? He holds them at the first at a very high rate, and sets a good face on it, as though he had such traffique indeed, but afterward comes downe so low, ẏ euerie man strives who shall giue him earnest first: and ere he be aware, he hath fortie shillings clapt into his hand, to assure the bargaine to some one of them. He puts it vp quietly, and bids them inquire for him at such a signe and place, where he neuer came, signifying also his name, when in troth he is but a cosening companion, and no such man to be found. Thus goes he cleare awaie with fortie shillings in his purse for nothing, and they vnlike euer to see him againe.

There is a certain kind of cosonage called horsecourling, which is when a man goes to the Carters of Cambridge, Oxford, Burie or Norwich, or anie great towne of trade, and hires a horse to ride downe with them, as these odde companions will doe: and what doth me he, but as soone as he hath him, keps aside into some blind towne or other, and there lies till he haue eaten him out lim by lim in wine and capons, and then when he can get no more on him, he

sends

sends the Carier word where he is; who in the end is faine to pay some fiftie shillings or three pounds for his victuals that hired him ere he can haue him. Rochester hackney-men do knowe what belongs to this trade, for they haue béene often times fleéced by these ranke riders, who comming to a towne with a cloke-bag of stones caried after them, as if they were men of some worth, hire a horse to Canterburie, and ride quite away with him.

There be certaine mates called Faunguests, who if they can find a fit Anuil to strike on, will learne what acquaintance he hath in the countrie, and then they will come to him, and say, I am to doe commendations to you from a friend of yours, and he gaue me this bowed sixe pence to drinke a quart of wine with you for his sake: and if he goe to the tauerne, they will not onely make him paie for the wine, but for all he drinks in besides.

So was one in Aldergate-stréete lately serued, who drawne to the tauerne after such a like order called for a pinte of wine, the drawer brought it him, and a goblet with it, and set them both on the table, and went his way: Whie, quoth this Fawneguest, what a goblet hath the fellow brought vs here, it wil not hold halfe a draught? So ho (quoth he) no attendance giuen here? Ile carie it to him my selfe, since no body will cóme: for of all things I loue not to drinke in these squirting cups, so downe the staires, forth of the doores he goes with the goblet vnder his cloake, and left his newe acquaintance and small remembrance to paie thrée pound for a thrée-penie shot.

Such Fawneguests were they, that méeting a prentise, who had béene to receiue a hundred pound for his master, sodainly in the middest of Cheapside in the daie time, and open market kept to him, as if they had bin familiarly acquainted with him, and sodainly cast the hinder skirt of his cloake ouer his face, making as though they had iested with him, and séeming to thrust their cold hands in his necke, one of them thratled him so sore by the wind-pipe, that he could make no noise, but sodainly sunke to the

ground

ground muffled in his cloke, while the other tooke from him the bagge with the money which he had vnder his arme, which done, they ranne away laughing, as if that the deede were done in iest.

Some after the market folks and people passing by to & fro perceiuing the youth lie still on the ground & not stir vp, stepped to him, and seeing in what state he was, rubbed and chafed him, and gaue him Aqua vitæ, so that some after he came againe to himself: then looking about him, & seeing the people so gathered together, he cried vnto them, O, where's my money! They wondring to heare him talke of mony, told him both how his companions left him, and they found him, whereby the people knowing how he was deceiued, made after them, but they were neuer heard of till this day.

But these are Gentlemen Watfowlers in comparison of the common rablement of Cutpurses and pickpockets, and no man that sees them but would imagine them to be Caualiers of verie good sort. Marie there be a band of more needy mates, called Termers, who trauell all the yeere from faire to faire, and haue great doing in Westminster hall. These are the Nips and Foists; whereof the first part of Conicatching entreateth, and these haue their cloyers and followers, which are verie troublesome to them, for they can no sooner draw a bung but these come in for their tenths, which they generally tearm snapping, or snappage.

Now if the Cutpurse denie snappage, his cloyer or follower forthwith boyles him, that is, bewrayes him, or seazeth on his cloake, which the Nip dares not withstand, so Richard Farrie a notable Lift of fortie yeares of age was serued, who beeing dogged or followed by a Cloyer called Iohn Gibson, who hauing seene him pierce a hogshed in the beginning of a faire challenged him for snappage: which old Farrie denied, because Gibsons wife (as hee then said) was a pickpocket, and yet would part with nothing. Then did Gibson sweare that he should not buy one penniworth of ware that day (which is the right cutpurse phrase of get-

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ting a purchase) and thereupon he shadowed him vp and downe, and mard his market quite, as hee had before promised.

In reuenge whereof the said *Richard Farrie* at Mayhill faire last, hearing where Gibson had purloined a purse with thirteene nobles in it, sent a lustie fellow of his profession, a young dealer in the arte of cloying or following named Iames Roades, that was since hanged at Dorchester, who being apparelled like a seruingman, came to demaund his mistresse purse of Gibson, which he said he saw him vnlawfully take awaie, as if indeed he had beene the Gentlewomans man that had the gleeke. Which Gibson at the first vtterly denied, but afterward being further threatned with danger of his life, yelded the purchase vnto Roades, which was immediatelie shared betweene him and old Farrie.

This thing sone after came to Gibsons eare, who was throughly laughed to scorne for his labour.

Manie there be of these wicked persons, and also lewd Officers, who like shadowes or cloyers, do nothing all day long but follow the Lifts vp and downe, pinching them for snappage: and not one of them that hath the right deterritie in his fingers, but they know, & will conceale and patronize if neede require. Marie, if there be a novice, that hath not made himselfe knowne to their congregation, hee shall sooue be smelt out, and haue no remission, vnlesse hee purchase it by pinp pilferie.

These Cutpurses of Sturbridge fell their luggage commonly at a towne called Botham, where they keepe their ball at an odde house, bowzing and quaffing, and haue their trulles attendant vpon them so bythe as may be.

How a Cheesemonger had his bag cut out of his apronne hanging before him.

At this faire it was, thought long since, that the Cheesemonger had his pocket cut out of his apronne, being all

all the whole Colledge of Cutpurses had assayed, which none but one could bring to passe, and he indeed was a doctor in his arte: for going to the Cheesemongers bothe to buy a cheese, he gaue him monie for one of the greatest, and desired him to cut it in peeces, and put it behind him in the cape of his cloake. He did so, and the whilst he was thrusting it in, hee cut his pocket with twelue pounds out of his apron before him: for which deede he liueth renowmed in the Cutpurse chronicles, nt for his sake they yearely make a feast, and drinke to the soule of his deceased carkasse.

There be diuers sorts of Nips and Foysts both of the citie and countrie: these cannot one abide the other, but are at deadly hatred, and will boyle and discouer one another, by reason one is hinderance to the other. And these the former bookes haue omitted. There are also sundrie other Lawes, not heretofore spoken of, namely Iames Fosters Law, or Iames Fosters Lift, which grewe thus.

How a cosoning Lift stole a cloake out of a Scriueners shop.

THis fellow came into a Scriueners shop to haue a letter written to his wiues mother, signifying that his wife was run awaie with another knaue, and had carried awaie all that he had, and that he had rather be hanged then be troubled anie longer with such a whore. But it must needs be written in haste, for his owne father doth carie it, and he goes awaie straight. All the while he is telling his tale, he cast a leering eye about the shop, to see if there were euer a cloake vpon a by-settle, or anie other bowtie that he might transport vnseene vnder his owne cloak. By chance he espied one, so he leaned against the wall where it lay, and with his hands behind him, he gathered it vp cleanly by little and little: then iocainly starting vp, said, Pounder is my father that would carie it, and I will run after him to call him again. So out of the doores ran

he with all spæd, hauing the cloake vnder his arme, crying, Ho father, father, leauing the Scriuener yet writing his letter, who mist not his cloake till a great while after, that he saw him not returne againe.

There is a cunninger kind of Lift, when a Batfowler walking in an euening in the streetes, will faine he hath let fall a ring or a Iewell, and come to a shop well furnished with wares, and desire the prentise of the house to lend his candle to loke it: he suspecteth no guile, lends it him: and the Batfowler goes poaring vp and downe by the dores, as if he had lost something indeed, by and by he lets the candle fal to and it goes out. Now I pray you good yong man, saith he, do so much as light me this candle againe: so goes the fellow in to light the candle, while hee steales what he will out of the shop, and gets him going while the light commeth.

There is a Lift called Will. St. Lift, whose maner is to go vp and downe to Faires in a blewcoate, sometimes in his doublet and hose, and sometimes in a cloake, which commonly he puts off when he comes thither: this fellow waiteth diligently when any rich yeoman, Gentleman, or gentlewoman goes into an Inne to late vp his cloak, capcase, saueguard, Portmantua or any other luggage, so following them, marks to whom they are deliuered: then comes he within halfe an houre after puffing and blowing for the cloake, capcase, portmantua, sword, or such like, and in his maisters name demandeth it, giuing the wife, maid, tapster, hostler, or some of the house two pence or a groate for laying it vp. Which hauing receiued, he is gone gone, and neuer returneth. This fellow will sometime stand bareheaded, and offer to hold a Gentlemans stirop, and verie diligently attend vpon him when he alighteth at anie great Inne, and seemeth so seruiceable, as if he were an hostler or chamberlaine belonging to the house: yea and sometimes follow him out of dores as his man, and attend vpon him to the Faire very orderly: within halfe an houre after, when he sees his new maister is so

busse in the Faire, that he cannot hastily returne to his lodging before him, he will come backe to the Inne running, and tell them his Master hath sent him to them for his cloke bag or Portmantua in all haste: for he is vpon paiment of money, and must needs haue it. They thinking him verilie to be the Gentlemans man, because at his comming he was so necessarie about him, they deliuer vnto him whatsoeuer the Gentleman left with them, who notwithstanding when the true owner commeth, they are faine to answer it out of their owne purses.

A slie tricke of Cosonage lately done in Cheapeside.

BEsides this, there is a kind of Lift called Chopchain, as when a Gentleman like a batfowler hath hired a chain for a day or two vpon his credit, or hath some of his friends bound for the restoring of it againe, goes to S. Martines, and buyes for a little money another copper chaine, as like it as mate be: then comes he to the Goldsmith, and vpon the right chaine offers to borrow twentie pounds: the Goldsmith toucheth it to see if it be counterfeit or no: then finding it good, he tendereth him his money: which the whilest he is doing, and that both money and chaine lies yet vpon the stall, what doth me he, but tumbles and plates with the linkes carelesly, as if he minded another matter, so by a fine tricke of Legerdemaine gathers it vp into his hand & chops the copper chaine in place, leaving him that pawne for his twentie pounds.

How a man was cosoned in the euening by buying a guilt spoone.

VVhilest I was writing this, I was giuen to vnderstand of another like exploit nothing inferiour to any of the former. A fellowe like a clowne that knew all points in his tables, and had beene maister of

his

his trade manie yeares together, walking through Sitiuer street in London suddenly in the dark spurned a faire gilt spoone (as it seemed) being wrapt vp in a paper, which before he purposely let fall: the people thinking some other had lost it, and that it had beene his good luck aboue the rest to find it, gan to flocke about him for to looke on it, and admired his fortune in meeting with it, hee counterfeiting the simple fole as well as he could: Now a Gods will what shall I do with such a Gugaw? would some other bodie had found it for me, for I know not what it is good for. Why, said one of the standers by, wilt thou take money for it? I, quoth he, I would I had a crowne for it. And I will come somwhat neere you, saith the other, for thou shalt haue all the money in my purse, which is foure shillings, so forth he drewe his purse, and gaue him the money. And verie well content with the bargaine, he put it vp, and said I marie, this money will doe me more good then twentie spoones, and let them keepe such toies that list, for I had rather haue one groat in my purse then a cart loade of such trumperie. So away he went laughing in his sleeue, to thinke how he had cosoned him that thought to ouer-reach him: he that was so cosoned, as it were triumphing at his bargaine, could neuer looke enough on the spoone, but went presently and carried it to the Goldsmith, to know what it was worth. Wirlady sir when he came thither, the spoone was found to be but brasse faire gilded ouer, and worth but seuen pence at the most, if he should sell it, which was a heauie coling card to his heart, and made him x sweare, that for that spoones sake he would neuer be in his plate againe while he liued.

Thus euerie daie they haue new inuentions for their villanies, and as often as fashions alter, so often do they alter their stratagems, studying as much how to compasse a poore mans purse, as the Prince of Parma did to win a towne. Neither is this Coniefelling the gainfullest of their artes, although in one day they made away a dozen so. I but it is a tricke by the waie for a supper or a breake-

 fast

fast, which no man at the first can descrie. Ouerpassing this catalogue of Lifts and Cutpurses, Gentlemen, I will acquaint you with a strange newe deuised arte of stone-carying, wherein is contained the right vse of the chalke and the poast, as also a necessarie caueate for victuallers and nickpots, how to beware of such insinuating companions.

The Arte of carying stones.

FIrst and foremost you must note, that leauing an Alewife in the lurch, is termed making her carie stones, which stones be those great Oes in chalke that stand behind the doore: the weight of euerie one of which is so great that as manie shillings as there be, so many times shee cries O, as groning vnder the waight thereof. Now sir, of these Oes twentie shillings make a fust loade, and tenne pound a bargeful. But here lies the cunning, how to compasse an honest Asse that will vndertake such a burthen: first this is a generall precept amongst them, that he must be some odde drunken companion that they deale vpon, and his wife a good wench, that so she may bee fallen in with, and wipe off her guests scores, if so he haue no monie to discharge it: a thing that manie women of that kind will willingly do to haue sport and saue their honestie. Yet if this cannot conueniently be brought to passe, or that in respect of her age she is not worth the taking vp, then will they be sure their goodman hoast must be a certaine kind of bawd, or a receiuer of cutpurses, pickpockets, or such like, whereby it so fals out, that if he and they square about crownes, they may stop his mouth with threatning to betraie him to the Beadle of Bridewell, or telling Hind of Newgate what hospitalitie he keepes. Nay further, they will obserue if he at anie time raile against anie seuere Justice that hath the punishment of such notorious persons, and if he do (as in some drunken humour or other he will ouershote himselfe in that kind) then will they conceale

reale it, neuer discoer it, but dominére ouer them, throwe the pots against the wall, for he and his house is forfeit onto them. Againe, it mate so happen that *hospes meus* mate be an old seruingman, who hath belonged in his dates to some famous recusant that hath long since broke vp house, and now being turned out of seruice, he hath no trade to liue on, but must marie a whore, and kéepe victualling either in Westminster, or in the suburbs of London. Then cocke a hope, they are better then euer they were. For if he be of the right stampe he will be exclaiming against the state, or those that kéepe his maister, or he will enter into commendations of the old Religion: and this is the onely thing they desire, they neuer wish a finer fellow to féed on. A Gods name let him set forth his béefe and brewes, and trudge euerie day to the market to buy Capons & rabbets: for if they run neuer so much in his debt, if they tell him of a pursuant, he will neuer threaten thē with a sergeant. A number more of these obseruations do appertaine to stone carying, as namely at their first comming to their lodging they bee as frée as an Emperour, and draw all the acquaintance that they can procure to spend their money there before another place, so that the host and hostesse may conceiue great matter of hope of hauing their house customed by their lying in it, and eate no meat but haue either the good man or the good wife still with him at dinner or supper, which will plucke the stones on his shoulders the faster, if so he suffer his guests to run on the score. And this in anie case they set downe for a generall rule, that they lie not aboue two moneths in one place, for longer the alescore is not able to hold out, and the poore man ouerpressed so excessiuely, in a malecontent humour will rather grow desperate, and not care for anie danger they can bring him to, then suffer more then flesh and blood can endure, or not rather haue his will on them for vsing him so badly.

How say you my maisters, you thinke there is no deceit in a pot of ale, and that there are no cosoners but Conicatchers, but that's not so, for London is a lickpenie, and

euerie

euerie man hath not a mint in his pocket that lines in it, some must practise witcraft, that haue not the gift in keeping a lanes end with a sword and a buckler, or at the least are so crazed with the Italian bone-ache, that they are afraid to bee crusht in peces, if they should earne their liuing in a crowde. But to be briefe, I will tell you a merie storie how this name of Stone-carying first came vp, and thus it followeth.

How a Carier of Norwich was made to carie stones.

A Gentlewoman that made a shew as if she had beene of good credit, came to the carier of Norwich, and told him shee was to remoue houshold, and went to dwell in the countrie, wherfore she craued his friendship in safe transporting of her things to Norwich: & so it is (quoth she) that most of my substance consists in linnen, money, Iewels, and plate, which I put altogether in a great chest, which she brought thither: As for other trash Ile neuer trouble my selfe with remouing. I pray you haue a great care to it that it bee safely laid in the middest of your cart, where theeues maie not easily come at it, and that it be kept from raine or wet in anie case, promising to content him for the cariage with more then ordinarie due. After it was seene to come to three hundred weight, he laid it vp immediately in his carte, nor would she depart till she saw it safe packed. About an houre after she came to the carier again, telling him that she was afraid she should be constrained to haue recourse to her chest, by reason she had a few trifles to buy ere she departed, and that she wanted some fiue or fire pound. The Carier loath to vnload for so small a matter, bid her take no care for money, for what she needed she should haue of him, till she came downe into the countrey. So fire pounds he lent her: and downe with him she goes with her man as braue as king be. But comming to Windham, shee gaue him the slip, and he saw

her

her no more: Home went the Carier, and laid vp the chest verie safe in his storehouse, daily looking when the Gentlewoman would come for it. After a moneth was past, and hearing no words of her, fearing he was coloned, he sent for the Constable and sundrie other of his neighbours, and before them brake vp the chest, finding nothing in it but small soft freestone lapped in straw, mixt with Flints and such like stuffe, beeing very speciall things to giue the Carier his loading. Alas, kind man, this was but heauie tidings for him: for besides the money that he had laid out of his purse, he lost the cariage of other luggage, which would haue returned him greater profit. Yet could not this nor ten times as much vndoe him, but setting light of it, in a merie humour he reported to some of his friends the circumstance of all his cariage of stones. And euer since the iest hath beene taken vp by odde companions and Ale-knights.

I would bee loth by this my publicke Discouerie to corrupt the simple, or teach them knauerie by my book, that els would haue beene honest, if they had neuer seene them: for that were all one as if a Chirurgion that teacheth men what the plague is, that they might eschew it, should bring his patient that hath a plague sore, into the market place, and there lance it, whereby all men that looke on, in stead of learning to auoid it, should be most dangerously infected with it. But my meaning in this is, but to chase the game which others haue rowsed; and execute them outright which Conicatching only hath branded: and although I do not spend manie leaues in inueighing against the vices which I reckon vp, or time and paper in vrging their odiousnesse so far as I might: yet you must not thinke, but I hate them as deadly as any, and to make manifest my hatred to them, haue vndertooke this Treatise. But imagine the Reader to be of this wisdome and discretion, that hearing some laid open, he can discerne it to be sinne, and can so detest it, though he be not cloid with a common place of exhortation. And sooth to say, I thinke euery man to bee of

my mind, that when they see a fellow leape from the subiect he is handling, to dissuade them by stale arguments from the thing they alreadie detest, they should skip it ouer, and neuer reade it, gainecope him at the next turning point to his text.

To dismisse this parenthesis and returne to *circa quod*. I care not since this occasion of Stone-carying hath brought me from talking of the cosonage of men to the treacherous subtilitie of women, if I rehearse you a tale or two more of Crosbitings lately done by such detestable strumpets.

A Tale of a whore that crosbit a Gentleman of the Innes of Court.

A Certaine queane belonging to a close Nunnerie about Clarkenwell, lighting in the company of a yong Punie of the Innes of Court, trained him home with her to her hospitall: and there couenanting for so much to giue him his houserome all night. To bed they went together like man and wife. At midnight a crue of her copelmates kept a knocking and busling at the doore. She starting sodainly out of her sleepe, arose and went to the window to looke out: wherewith she crying out to him, said, that a Justice was at the doore with a companie of billes, and came to search for a seminarie Priest, and that there was no remedie but she must open vnto them: wherefore either he must rise and locke himselfe in a studie that was hard by, or they should be both caried to Bridewell. The poore silly youth in a trance, as one new start out of sleep, and that knew not where he was, suffered her to leade him whither she would, who hastily thrust him into the studie, and there locked him, and went to let them in. Then entred Sim Swashbuckler, Captaine Gogswounds, and Lawrence Longsword-man, with their appurtenances, made inquirie as if they had beene Officers indeed, for a young Seminarie Priest that should be lodged there that

night.

She simpered it, and made curtesie, & spake reuerently vnto them, as if she had neuer seene them before, and that they had beene such as they seemed, and told them she knew of none such, and that none lay there but her selfe. With that through signes that shee made, they spied where his clothes were fallen downe betweene the chest and the wall: Then they began to raile vpon her, and call her a thousande whores, saying they would make her an example, I mary would they, and vse her like an Infidell for her lying, nor would they stand searching any longer, but shee should be constrained to bring him forth: And that they might bee sure he should not start, they would carie away his clothes with them. As for the closet, because it was a Gentlemans out of the towne, they would not rashly breake it open, but they would set watch and ward about the house till the morning, by which time they would resolue further what to do. So out of doores go they with his clothes, doublet, hose, hat, rapier, dagger, shoes, stockings, and twentie marks that he had in his sleeue, which he was to pay vpon a band the next day for his father, to a merchant in Canning streete, and left Nicholas Nouice staruing and quaking in that doghole. The morning grew on, and yet the yong Ninihammer, though he was almost frozen to death, stood still and durst not stirre, till at length the good wife of the house came and let him out, and bad him shift for himselfe, for the house was so belaid, that it was not possible for him to escape, & that she was bitterly vndone through his comming thither. After manie words it grew to this vpshot; that he must giue her a ring worth thirtie shillings, which he then had on his finger, onely to helpe him out at a backe doore, and in so doing she would lend him a blanket to call about him. Which being performed, like an Irish begger he departed on the backeside of the fieldes to his chamber, vowing neuer to pay so deere for one nights lodging during his life.

How a Curbar was dreſt with an vnſauourie perfume, and how a notable whore was crosbitten in her owne practiſe.

A Notable whore of late daies compact with a hoker, whom conicatching Engliſh cals Curbar, bargained with a countrie Gentleman or Tearmer aforeſaid, to tell her tales in her eare all night: according to appointment he did ſo. The Gentleman hauing ſupt, and readie to go to bed, ſhe willed him to lay his clothes in the windowe, for (quoth ſhe) we are ſo troubled with rats in this place (which was in Peticote lane) that wee cannot lay any thing out of our hands, but they will in one night be gnawne to pieces, and made worth nothing: but her intent was this, that the Curbar with his crome might the more conueniently reach them; not that ſhe cared ſo much for his apparell, as for his purſe, which ſhe knew was well ſtored with crownes, and lay in the ſleeue of his doublet: wherepon he was ruled by her, and ſo entred the liſts. Within two houres after, he being ſore troubled with a laſke, roſe vp and made a double vſe of his chamberpot, which going to throw it out at the window, he remoued the clothes from before it, and ſet it in the place till he had opened the caſement. At that inſtant the ſpring of the window leapt open of the one accord. Whereat being amazed, he ſlept backe with a trice, leaving the chamberpot ſtanding ſtill: then fearing the diuell had beene at hand, by and by he ſpied a faire iron inſtrument like a nut came marching in at the window verie ſolemnly, which in ſteede of the doublet and the hoſe that he ferretted for, arreſted that homely ſeruice in the member veſſell, and pluckt godman Jordan with all his contents down pat vpon the Curbars head and ſhoulders. Never was gentle Angler ſo dreſt: for his face, his necke and apparell were all beſmeared with the ſoft Sirreuerence, ſo that I warrant you hee ſtunke worſe then a Jakes-farmer. The Gentleman hearing one crie out,

and

and seeing his messe altogether thus strongly taken away, began to gather courage to him, and loked out to see what it was: where, to his no small contentment hee might behold the Curbar lying along almost brained, almost drowned, and well neere poisoned with the tragicall event of the pispot: whereat he laughed merily, and suspecting his Leman to haue a share in that conspiracy, and that for ten pounds it was her motion to haue him laie his clothes in the windowe, to the end he might haue lost them and his money, she being a sleepe in the bed all this while, he quietly remoued his owne apparell, toke her gowne and petticoat and laid them in the steed. Forthwith the Curbar reuiued, in came the hoke againe verie manerlie, and clapt hold on those parcels, which together went downe with a witnesse. All which consorting to his wish, he went round to bed, and in the morning stole awaie early, neither paying dame Lecherie for her hire, nor leauing her one ragge to put on.

Here was wistie beguily rightly acted, & an aged Rampallion put besides her schole-trickes. But simply, these Crosbiters are necessarie instruments now and then to tame such wanton youths, as will not let a maid or a wife passe a long the stretes but they will be medling with her: what they do they learne of the tumbler, who lies squat in the brakes till the Conie be come forth out of her burrow, and gone a gossipping ouer the way to her next neighbors, & then he goes between her and home, and as she returneth with two or three fleshly minded Rabbets or Simplers with them, with whom it maie be she hath made a bargain to go a bucking, then out flies the tumbler like ẏ crosbiter & seazeth on them all for his praie. I maruell that the book of Conicatching had not him vp in his table, since by his first example he corrupted the Christian people. But you will say, he is *animal irrationale*, and therefore to be borne withall, because he doth but his kind. Kind me no kind, there is more knauerie in Canilier Canis then you are aware of, as you shall perceiue by his discourse following.

A notable Scholerlike discourse vpon the nature of Dogges.

NOw Gentlemen, will you giue me leaue to dallie a little for your further recreation, & I will proue vnto you that a dogge is a dangerous man, and not to be dealt withall: yea he is such a kind of creature that he may well be master and gouernour ouer all ordinary beasts: for first and formost, there is no man of experience that will denie but dogs do excell in outward sence, for they will smell better then we, and therby hunt the game when they see it not. Besides, they get the sight of it better then we, and are wonderfull quicke of hearing. But let vs come to speech, which is either inward or outward. Now that they haue outward speech I make no question, although we cannot vnderstand them, for they bark as good old Saron as may be; yea they haue it in more daintie maner thã we, for they haue one kind of voice in the chase, and another when they are beaten, and another when they fight. That they haue the inward speech of mind, which is chiefly conuersant in those things which agrée with our nature, or are most against it, in knowing those things which stand vs most in stead, & attaining those vertues which belong to our proper life, and are most conuersant in our affections, thus I proue: first and formost he chooseth those things that are cõmodious vnto him, and shunneth the contrarie: He knoweth what is good for his diet, and seeketh about for it. At the sight of a whip he runneth away like a theef from a hue and crie. Neither is he an idle fellow that liues like a trencher Flie vpon the sweat of other mens browes, but hath naturallie a trade to get his liuing by, as namely the arte of hunting and Conicatching, which these late bookes go about to discredit. Yea, there be of them as of men of all occupations, some Carters, and they will fetch; some watermen, and they will diue and swim when you bid them; some butchers, and they will kill shéepe; some cookes, and they turne the spit. Neither are they void of vertue, for if that be

Justice

Justice that giues euery one his deserts, out of doubt dogs are not destitute of it: for they fawne vpon their familiar friends and acquaintance; they defend those from danger that haue deserued well of them, and reuenge them of strangers, and such as either haue, or go about to do them iniurie. Then if they haue Justice, they haue all the vertues, since this is an Axioma in Philosophy, that one vertue cannot be separated from another.

Further, we see they are full of magnanimitie, in incountring their enemies. They are wise, as Homer witnesseth, who entreating of the returne of Vlysses to his owne house, affirmeth that all his houshold had forgotten him but his dogge Argus, and him neither could Pallas by her sabtill arte decetue in the alteration of his body, nor hist twentie yeares absence in his beggers weeds delude a nie whit, but he stil retained his forme in his fantasie, which as it appeared was better then any mans of that time.

According to Chrysippus, they are not ignorant of that excellent facultie of Logicke, for he saith that a dogge by cannasing and study doth obtaine the knowledge to distinguish betweene three seuerall things, as for example, where three waies meete, and of these three hath staid at two of them, by which he perceiueth the game hath not gone, presently without more adoe hee runneth violently on the third waie: which doth argue (saith Chrysippus) as if hee should reason thus. Either hee went this way, or that way, or yonder waie: but neither that waie, nor yonder waie, therefore this way. Againe, when they are sicke, they knowe what disease they haue, and deuise howe they may ease themselues of their griefe; if one strike them into the flesh with a stake, this policy they vse to get it out. They traile one of their feet vpō the ground, and gnaweth the flesh where the wound is round about with their teeth, vntill they haue drawne it cleane out. If they chaunce to haue anie vlcer, because vlcers kept foule are hardlie cured, they licke the sore with their tongues, and keepe it cleane. And wonderfull well doe they obserue the precept

cept of Hippocrates that the onelie medicine for the sore is to rest, for if they haue ante hurt in their feete, they beare them vp, and as much as lies in them, take care they be not stirred: when vnprofitable humours trouble them, they eate an hearbe, whereby they vomite vp all that is offensiue vnto them, and so recouers their health againe. How thinke you my masters, are these vnreasonable creatures, that haue all this naturall reason in them? No, though they are beasts, yet are they not as other are, inhumane: for they haue more humanitie then any other beasts whatsoeuer. But of them I haue said enough, & therfore I will proceede to my former argument: wherein for your better delight, I will acquaint you with a true storie latelie performed in Poules Church by a couple of Cutpurses. The matter was of such truth, as I could for neede set downe the Gentlemans name, and also the names of all the actors therein, but I craue pardon, because the Gentleman was of good place and credit, and for more assurance my selfe was present: the whole matter fell out as followeth.

How a Countrie Gentleman walking in Poules had his purse cut by a new kind of conueyance, and in the end by the like wilie beguily got it againe.

A Countrie Gentleman of some credite walking in Powles, as tearmers are wont that wait on their lawyers, was seene by a couple of light fingred companions, that had got some gentlemanship vpon them by priuie biting in ẏ dark, to haue some store of crownes in his purse coacht in a faire trunke slop, like a boulting hutch. Alas, they were mortall, and could not chose but bee tempted with so glorious an obiect. For what maie not gold doe with him that hath neither money nor credit? Wherefore in verie zeale of a bad spirit, they conspired how to make a breach in his pocket, and possesse themselues of their pray. In the end it was concluded (as necessitie is neuer without

out stratagems) that the one should go behind him, while the other gaue the stroke that should deuide life and soule. As they determined, so they brought it to passe, for the good old fellow walking verie soberly in one of the side Ilés, deuising where to dine to saue the odde thrée pence, sodainly one of them stept behind him and clapt his hands before his eyes, saying: Who am I? Who am I? while the other gaue the purse the gentle terke, and beguiled his purse of the gilt: which done, hee went sneaking awaie like a dog that had wearied a shéep. The good minded Gentlemã that was thus muffled, thinking that it had bin one of his acquaintance, that plaid bo péepe with him after that sort, cried to him, Now for the passion of God, who are you? who are you? Tell me I praie you who are you? For I shall neuer reckon while I liue. O, quoth the Cauallero Cutpurse, you shall know by and by, and therewith plucking awaie his hands, loked him full in the face & laughed, but by and by starting aside, as if he had committed an errour, God forgiue me (quoth he) what haue I done, I crie you hartily mercie, I haue mistaken you for my acquaintance, one that is so like you, as one peaze is like another: and therefore I pray you pardon me. No harme done, no harme done, quoth the Gentleman, and so they departed. Sinior who was to deuide his booie where his companion attended him, and my neighbour Mumpsimus to tyrannize on Bolspudding-pies for his fire pence: short tale to make, his hungrie bodie being refreshed, and euerie one satisfied, there entred in a dumbe shewe, the reckoning with a cleane trencher in his hand verie orderly, as who should say, Lay your hand on the boke. On him attended a well fed Tapster in a shining sute of well liquored fustian, wherein was engrauen the triumphs of many full platter, with his apron on his shoulder, and his knife vnder his girdle. At which sight euery man began to draw, and my honest penifather thought to droppe testers with the rest: but woe alas, his bréches were like the bottomlesse pit of hell, for there was not one crosse to be found.

 Then

Then began he to fume and chafe, and run vp and downe like a mad man, saying, Well a day ẏ euer I was borne! Who am I? who am I? Whereat the rest of the Gentlemen wondring, he vp and told them the whole storie of his misfortune, as is afore recited. And said, now I know who it was that said, Who am I? who am I: for in troth he was a cutpurse. But here did he not cease or spend much time in singing a *De profundis* ouer his emptie pocket, whers was nought els saue Lent and desolation, but tumbled his braines together like stones in a bladder, and tost ouer his thoughts as a Tailer doth his shreds when he hath lost his nedle, to find out some meanes to fetch home his straied purse, and to be euen with those vndermining Pioners. In the end his pillow and present pouertie put this policie into his head. The next day early in the morning he went into Poules in the same apparell, and walking iust in the same place where he lost the maine chance the day before, hauing bought him a faire new purse with white strings and great tassels, and filled the same with brasse counters, and thrust it into the slop of his hose, as he was wont, letting the strings thereof hang out for a traine. Well, so it fell out, that he had scarce fetcht three turnes, but a poore woman that had the shaking ague in her head came to aske his charitie: he glad of anie occasion to boast his counterfeit wealth, to entrap the eyes of those hungrie espials, gaue her a penie, and therewith drew forth a number of counters, making shew as if they had beene French crowne: which was presently perceiued by Timothy touch and take, that had beene in the action the day before, who sitting vnder a piller, leaning like one twixt sleeping and waking, fell into a great longing, how he might haue that purse also to beare the other companie. Still the olde Snudge went plodding in one path, and euer looked vnder his ouerhanged mossie eye-browes, to see who came neere him, or once offer to iustle him. He had beside at either end of the Ile on of his men to watch, for feare any more, Who am I: shuld come behind him. At last out steps my nimble

knaue,

knaue, and running hastily by him like some prentise, that had beene sent of an errand, he sliced it smoothly away, so as the gentleman neuer perceiued it. But one of his men who had his senses both of seeing and feeling better then his master, marked when he gaue him the gentle gleeke, and whither he went when hee had obtained his bottie: whereupon dogging him to a Cookes shoppe in Thames street; to which place also the Gentleman followed alose off. He there laid hands on him, and challenged him for a Cutpurse, saying, he had seene him doe such a thing in Poules, and told him also from whom he toke it. He swore and stared, and stood at bitter defiance with him. And the better to outface the matter, his partner, who being then lodged in the same house, came downe and fell in tearmes of doing the Gentleman wrong, and that he should answer him, or any man els. And (quoth he) if thou wert well serued thou shouldest be stabd for offering to disredit him thus at his lodging. Meane while that these matters were thus disputing, and the poore seruingmans death with manie oathes vowed, in came his master, who spying, Who am I to stand vpon his pantofles so proudly, straight toke him aside, and told him a tale in his eare, that did him small good at the heart, and said flatly hee was the man, and no other whom he sought for, and either he would haue restitution for his purse at his hands, or they would trie a conclusion at Tyborne. At which speech their courage was somewhat abated: and in the end it so fell out, to auoid further trouble they restored him both the purses with quietnes, and made him a sufficient recompence for the trespasse. Thus at that time they escaped, and all parties were pleased: but shortly after they were taken for such an other fact, for which they were both condemned and executed at Tyborne.

Now Gentlemen, haue you not heard a pretie pranke of Willie beguily, where the cunning Cutpurse was pinched in his owne practise? sure I thinke neuer was poore Nip so nipt before. Wherefore I wish all those that are of

that facultie to be careful of the right Nip, who if he bee neuer so cunning in his arte, yet at one time or other hee maie hap to meete with Bul, and his sturdie Iade, on whom if he chance to ride with his necke snarled in an hempen halter, he is like to receiue so sharpe a nip, that it will for euermore marre his drinking place.

A notable exploit performed by a Lift.

There was not long since one of our former profession, hauing intelligence of a Cittizen that inuited three or foure of his friends to dinner, came a little before dinner time, and marked when the guestes were all come: when they were all come, as he thought, knowing the good man of the house safe (for he was not yet come from the exchange) steps vp the staires boldly, and comes into the roome where the guests were: when he comes in he salutes them, and askes if his cosen were not yet come from the Exchange. They told him no. No (saith he) me thinks he is verie long, it is past twelue of the clocke. Then after a turne or two, In faith Gentlemen (quoth my new come guest) it were good to doe something whereat we may bee merie against my cosen comes home, and to that intent I will take this Salt and hide it, that when hee misseth it, we shall see what he will say to my cosen his wife: so hee toke the Salt, and put it in his pocket, and walked a turne or two more about the roome, within a while when ye other guests were busie in talk, he steps downe the staires faining to make water; but when he was downe he turned downe Thaenes alley, and neuer returned againe. The Cittizen when he came home bid his friends welcome, and anon he miss the Salt that should be set on the table, called his wife to know if there were neuer a Salt in the house: His wife busie about dinner, tooke her husband vp, as women at such times will do, when they are a little troubled (for a little thing troubles them God wot) and asked him if he had no eyes in his head. No, nor you wife (quoth he)

hee) if you say there be any now: So there past many sharp and hot words betweene them. At length the guests vnwilling they should disagree on so small a trifle, they vp and told how one came in and asked for his cosen, and toke away the Salt, meaning to make a little mirth at dinner. But when they saw he returned no more, they contented themselues with patience, and went to dinner, as men at such times vse to do, with heauy hearts and cold stomackes.

THere are a certaine band of Raggamuffin Prentises about the towne, that will abuse anie vpon the smallest occasion that is, and such men (whom they neuer came to the credit in all their liues to make cleane their shoes) these dare neuer méete a man in the face to anouch their rogarie, but forsooth they must haue the help of some other their complices. Of this base sort you shall commonly find them at Playhouses on holy dayes, and there they will be playing their parts, or at some rout, as the pulling downe of Bandie houses, or at some good exploit or other, so that if you néed helpe, or you thinke your selfe not able to make your part good with anie that you owe a grudge to, no more but repaire to one of these, and for a canne of Ale they will do as much as another for a crowne: these make no more conscience to beat or lame one, whom they neuer before saw nor knew, then the knights of the poass when they are feed out of Poules to sweare falsly.

There are another sort of Prentises, that when they sée a Gentlewoman or a countriman minded to buy anie thing, they will fawne vpon them with their cap in hand, with what lacke you Gentlewoman? what lacke you Countriman? See what you lacke. The Gentlewoman perusing diuers commodities, findeth nothing that perhaps likes her: then going away, they come off with their ouerworne frumps. Will you buy nothing Gentlewoman? Its no marrell you should sée such choice of good ware. Then they begin to discommend her person to their

next neighbors, as good as themselues, and at next word, Send a fine dogge after her. These mate be likened to currish Spaniels, that when a man comes into the house will fawne vpon him, but before he goes forth, if her take not heed, will catch him by the shinnes. But if they mate with a countrie-man, he is the fittest man in the world to deale vpon. They will aske him iust twice so much as the ware is worth. The plaine simple man offers within a verie little of his price, as they vse in the countrie: which the Apprentise takes, and sweares it was not his for that money, and so makes the poore man a right Conie. I think few in the Exchange will account this for a Conicatching tricke. But if the countriman leaues them and goes his waie without buying anie thing, either for that hee likes not the ware, or that it is of too high a price: then will they come off with, Do you heare Countriman, will you give me thus much, and leaue your blew coate for a pawn for the rest? or they will bid him sell his sword and buy a paire of shoes for such like scoffing gibes, that the poore man sometimes could find in his heart to giue all the money in his purse, that he had them in Finsburie fields, that hee might reuenge himselfe on them for abusing him: a verie great abuse to their maisters and chapmen.

To this societie mate be coupled also another fraternity, viz. Water rats, Watermen I meane, that will be readie & very diligent for anie man, vntill they can get them to their boates, but when they come to land to paie their fare, if you paie them not to their owne contentments, you shall be sure of some gibe or other, yea and perhaps if they know they haue an Asse to deale with, stop his hat or his cloake, till he haue paid them what they list; but these are most commonlie seruants and apprentises: for the order is, that for euerie twelue pence they earne their maister allowes them two pence, so then the more they get, whether by hook or crooke, the more think they their gaine comes in. But this sort now and then mete with their mates, who in steed of a penie more in siluer, send them to

the Chirurgians with two penie worth of sorrow.

But what need I to spend time in decipherring these common companions? These few I haue particularly named, but thinke you there are no more of this kind? But I let passe Carmen and Dreymen, as verse knaues as the rest, because these are better knowne then I can set them forth: I meane not at this time, nor in this Treatise to set forth the guiles and deceits accustomed in all trades and mysteries from the chiefest trade to the basest, but will content my selfe for this time, with that that hath bene already dilated, intending in some other Treatise, at one time or other to relate in briefe what hath bene at large too long put in practise.

In the meane time curteous Citizens, let me exhort you to become good exãples to your family: for as the master is, so commonly is the seruant, as witnes the old verses in the Sheppards Calender in September.

Sike as the Sheppards, sike beene her sheepe.

And be sure, if thy seruant see thee giuen to spending, and vnchast liuing, there loke thy seruant, when thou thinkest he is about thy busnesse, not onely spends his time vainly, but that money, which by thy care in staying at home thou mightest haue saued. Such iollie shauers, that are deepe dashers of others, mens hides, haue I knowne (more is the pitie) to sit vp all night, some at Cardes and Dice, some quaffing and swilling at the Tauerne, and other among their trulles, spending in one night some twentie shillings, and thirtie shillings often: some againe that can maintaine to themselues a wench all the peare, and then they must filch and purloine whole peeces of stuffe for their gownes and peticoats, besides great store of mony: But these are such that can with a wet finger, and by reason of abundance of ware purloine their masters goods, & not easily be espied. But be sure at one time or other such villains wilcome forth: for the pot goes so oft to the water, that at last it comes home cracke. And take this for a

principle

principle and general rule, that whosoeuer he be that giues himselfe to this damnable sinne of lust, let him be assured, as sure as he had it alreadie, that a great punishment hangeth ouer his head. Therefore it behooues the maister to be wise in gouerning his seruants, that they may bee as markes for their seruants to shote at, to see how their seruants bee addicted and giuen, and not to be sterne and seuere towards them, but rather keepe them in, that they wander not abroad more then necessitie forceth, remembring that rule that Ouid giueth,

Parce puer stimulis & fortius vtere loris.

Spare the whip, raine them hard: for such as are growne to yeares will hardly endure blowes, wherefore the raining them from their desires is the next way in my mind to bring them to good.

But here is the griefe that those that should giue light are darke; those that should be guides haue néed to be lead; those that should instruct to sobrietie, are inducers to vanitie, according to those verses in Spate,

Those saitors littell regarden their charge,
While they letting their sheep runne at large,
Passen their time that should be sparely spent,
In lustinesse and wanton meriment.
Thilke same be Sheppards for the diuels steed,
That playen, &c.

Againe, what conscience they vse in bargaining and selling, witnesse the whole world, according to Diggon in Septemb.

They setten to sale their shops of shame,
And maken a market of their good name.
The sheppards there robben one another,
And layen baites to beguilde her brother.

And againe,

Or they bine false or full of couetise,
And casten to compasse many wrong emprise.

In fine, to conclude with that which we haue so long stood vpon, namely with vncleannesse, how hard it is for men to bee reclaimed from it: and as it is pernicious to all generally, so particularly to young men that haue newlie set vp for themselues, and haue as it were newly entred into the world, some male they cast awaie them selues, except they loke the better about them: but most odious for such that haue wives, with whom they may solace themselues. Pitie it is that such cannot be noted aboue the rest, it shewes an inordinate lust. And nowe it comes in my mind, I will impart with a tricke serued vpon a maried man, and a tradesman by a good wench, as they call them, reported and heard from her owne mouth not long since. The parties names I will conceale, because some of them are of some credite, although somewhat blemished by this skarre: and it was on this maner.

How a Citizen was serued by a Curtizan.

There was one Mounsieur Libidinoso dwelling at the signe of Incontinencie, hauing cast vp his accounts for the weeke past (for it was Saturday night) after supper resolued with himselfe to walke, which way he cared not, but as his staffe fell, so would he wend: by chance it fell Westward, and Westward he went, vntill he came to Whitefriers. When he came thither he bethought himselfe, and held it a deed of charitie to see some of his old acquaintance, whom hee had not visited a long time before: But they according to the ancient custome were remoued, for they vse not to stay long in a place. He hearing that, made no more ado but fel aboard with one that came next to hand, as good as the best, one that had beene tried, and such a one as would not shrinke at a shower: little in-

intreatie serues, and vp they goe. When after their beastly sport and pleasure Mounsieur Libid. heat of lust was somewhat asswaged, and ready to goe, feeling his pocket for a venereall remuneration finds nothing but a Tester, or at least so little, that it was not sufficient to please dame Pleasure for her hire. He protested and vowed he had no more about him now: for (said he) when I came forth I neuer thought what money I had about me. My Ladie would not beléeue Mons. Libid. a great while, but searched and feeled for more coine, but at that time she was frustrate of her expectation: she seeing no remedie, set as good a countenance on the matter as she could, and told him she would be contented for that time, hoping hee would bee more beneficiall to her hereafter. They were both contented: where no sooner hee is gone downe the staires, but shee whips off her gowne, and puts on a white wastcoate with a trice, and so dogs M. Libidinos. home to his house, and taking a perfect view of his house and signe, returnes back againe. On Monday morning she came to his house verie orderly in her gown with her handbasket in her hand, where she found Mons. Libid. and his wife in the shop: when she came in she called for this sort and that sort of lace, vntill she had called for as much ware as came to twentie shillings: when she was ready to goe, she whispered my Gentleman in the eare, and asked him, If he be remembred how sleightly such a time he rewarded her kindnesse, but now I am satisfied for this time. M. Libid. was in a wonderfull streight, and gaue her not a word for an answer, fearing his wife should knowe ante thing. His wife noting her whispering in her husbands eare, and seeing no mony paid, asked her husband when she was gone, who she was. Hee verie smoothly told her, shee was a very honest cutters wife, and that hee knew her a long time to bee a good paymaister. This answer contented his wife: but ful well I know he was not cõtented in his mind al the day after.

See here how a man may bee vnawares ouertaken by these filthie Pitchbarrels. Then let this example teach thee to forgoe their allurements, least thou in time be defiled with the like blot, or ouerplunged in a deeper bog: Remember,

Fœlix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.

For these night birdes not vnlike the Syrens, the more you frequent them, the more you shall be intangled, according to these verses, *Diggon in Sept.*

For they beene like foule wagmoires ouergrast,
That if thy gallage once sticketh fast,
The more to wind it out thou doest swincke,
Thou mought ay deeper and deeper sincke.
Yee better leaue of with littell losse,
Then by much wrestling to leese the grosse.

These may be motiues to all to auoide such infectious plague-sores: but how hardit is to get vp a tyred iade when he is downe, especially in the dirt euery man knowes, and men wil haue their swinge do all what they can, according to *Thenot in February.*

Must not the world wend in his common course,
From good to bad; and from bad to worse;
From worse vnto that is worst of all,
And then returne to his former fall.

But for my part I am resolued and with all men of the like mind sticking my staffe by Peirse in Maie.

Sheppard, I list no accordance make
With sheppard that does the right way forsake,
And of the twaine if choise were to me
Had leuer my foe then my friend to be,

THE NOTABLE, SLIE, and deceitfull pranks of Doctor Pinchbacke.

A Notable fellow of this trade well stricken in yeares, one that was free of the Nitmongers, travelled with his boy into Yorkeshire. And having no mony in his purse, nor other meanes to relieve himselfe but plaine shifting, grewe into bitter despaire of his estate, by reason hee had worne all colonages threed bare, and made the vttermost of his wit that was possible. Wherefore complaining himself to his trustie page, that had beene patner with him both in weale and woe, and whom hee had brought vp in his occupation, and taught to be as subtill as himselfe: ut Maister (quoth he) take no care, for when all is gone and nothing left, well fare the Dagger with the dudgeon haft. I am young and haue crochets in my head: I warrant you, while I haue my fiue senses we will not begge. Goe you and take vp your lodging in the fairest Inne in the towne, and call in lustily, sparing for no cost, and let me alone to pay for all. With this resolution they went into Yorkeslie, where seeing a verie faire Tauern, readie to outface the, according to the boyes advise, they put into it, & called for a roome, and none might content them but the best chamber in the house. Then Jacke of the clocke house summoned the Chamberlaine before him,

him, and toke an inuentorie what extraordinarie prouision of victuals they had for dinner, telling them his maister was no common man, nor would he be pleased with anie grosse kind of fare. The Tapster, who hoping of gaine, seemed verie seruiceable, and told him he should want nothing. And although they had at that time sundrie strangers, by reason the chiefe Justices of the shire sate there the same day about a Commission, yet promised to giue what attendance he might. Thus did the Crack-rope triumph, and walking in the yard while dinner was preparing, hämered in his head, & cast an eye about the house to see if anie occasion were offered for him to worke vpon. At last going vp a paire of stayres, hee spied in a faire great Chamber where the Commissioners sate, a side settle, whereon good store of plate stood. Yea, thought he? and it shall go hard but I'le make vp my market. So into the chamber closely hee stept, not beeing perceiued by any man, couertly conueyed away vnder his cloake one of the greatest gilt goblets, and went immediately on the backside of the house, where spying an old well, hee slung the same, and went his way vp to his master, to whom hee discouered what he had done, intreating him the better to furnish out the Pageant, to change his name, and call himselfe Doctor Pinchbacke.

This done, he went downe into the kitchin to see if dinner were readie: where the goodman of the house began to question with him what his Maister was, and who they called him. Sir, quoth he, Doctor Pinchbacke. What, is he a Doctor of Physicke quoth the host? Yea marie, quoth the boy, and a speciall good one. With that answer he ceased questioning any further, but sent vp meat to his dinner, and went vp himselfe to bid him welcome.

Dinner being done and the other guests ready to rise, the Goblet sodainly was missed, and great inquiry

made for it, but at no hand it would be found: all the seruaunts were examined, the house was thoroughlie searched, none of the Gentlemen had it. This newe found Doctor sware hee sawe it not, the boy denied it also, yet still the goodman and the good wife kept a great stirre for it, and were readie to weepe for verie anger that they should keep such knaues about them as had no more care, but retchlesly let a cuppe of nine pounds bee stollen, and no man knew which waie. Then the host made great offers to haue it againe, which the boy hearing, said, if they could entreate his Maister to take the paines, he could cast a figure, and fetch it againe with heaue and ho. But not a word (quoth he) that I told you so.

The good man hearing that, ranne vp in all hast, and besought Maister Doctor for the passion of God to stand his friend, or els he was vndone. So it is, quoth he, that I vnderstand of your great learning and knowledge, and that by a speciall gift in Astronomie that God hath giuen, you can tell of maruellous matters, and helpe againe to things that are lost. I prate you as euer you came of a woman shewe mee a little feate about my cuppe: and though I haue but small store of money, yet will I bestowe fortie shillings on you for your labour. Maister Doctor at the first made strange of the matter, and seemed verie loth to deale in it, by reason of the daunger of the lawe: yet for that he seemed to bee an honest man, and it grieued him that anie such thing should happen whilest hee was in his house, hee would straine a little with his cunning to releeue him in the best sorte, not so much for his money as for his friendship, and swore hee would not doe it for any other for a hundred pounds, therefore hee desired him to leaue him to himselfe, and to take order that no man came to trouble him for some two houres space, and he should see what he would do for him.

Two houres hee stayed alone by himselfe tossing him by a good fire till he sweat againe, then painting his face with a deadish colour, which hee carried alwaies about with him for such a purpose, and then calling vp the hostie, told him that hee had laboured sore for him, and almost indaungered himselfe in vndertaking the action, yet by good fortune hee had finished his businesse, and found where the cuppe was. Haue you not a well (quoth hee) on the backe side of your house that stands thus, and thus, for mine owne part I was neuer there (that I can tell of) to see. Yes that I haue, sayd the Hostie. Well (said Maister Doctor) in the bottome of that well is your cuppe: wherefore goe search presently, and you shall finde my words true. The goodman with all expedition did as hee willed him, and drew the well drie: at last hee spied his Goblet where it lay. It was no néede to bid him take it vp, for in his owne person hee went downe in the bucket: and full lightly to Maister Doctour Pinchpackes chamber hee trudged, and carried him fortie shillings, offering him besides a moneths board in requitall of his great curtesie. This counterfeit forsooth would seeme to refuse nothing, but there lay and fed vpon the stocke, whilest my goodman hostie did nothing but fill the countrie with his praise.

Not manie daies passed but a Gentleman of good credite drawne thither by the ordinarie report, came to visit him, who desirous to make triall of his cunning, he craued to knowe of him (his wife then beeing big with child) whether it was a man childe or a woman childe she went withall? Hee answered he could say little thereto except he saw her naked.

The Gentleman although hee thought it was no vsuall thing for a man to see a woman naked, yet Physitions haue more priuiledge then others, and

they

they as well as Midwiues are admitted to any secrets. Wherefore he perswaded his wife to disclose her selfe to him, and to dispence with a little inconuenience, so they may be resolued of so rare a secret. But this was Doctor Pinchbackes drift, hee thought to haue shifted the Gentleman off by this extraordinarie imposition, thinking he would rather haue surceased his suite, then anie waie haue suffered him to see his wife naked. In conclusion a chamber was prepared warme and close, in which she shewed her selfe, & twise walked vp and down the chamber naked in the presence of M. Doctor and her husband, who demanded M. Doctors answer to his former question, which was as followeth: Quoth he, from meward it is a boy, and to me ward it is a girle: other answer they could get nons of him. Wherefore the Gentleman was greatly offended against him, calling him Asse, Dolt, Patch, Cockescombe, Knaue, and all the base names he could deuise. But awaie went master Doctor as skilfull in those cases as a blind man when he throweth his staffe: and durst not answer the Gentleman one word. And the Gentleman greatly repented him that he had been so foolish to shew his wife in that sort before so sottish a companion.

About foure dayes after the Gentlewoman fell in labour, and was deliuered of a boy and a girle: whereat the Gentleman remembring the blunt answer of the Doctor, and finding it to be true, was greatly astonished, supposing indeed hee had mightily wronged the Doctor: to whom he went immediately craua̅ing pardon for his former follie, shewing himselfe verie sorowfull for his fault, and offered him in recompence of amends all the fauour he might possibly doe him, granting to him his house at commandement, and his board for so long time as he would continue with him. Wherupon in signe of loue and amitie he went and sojourned at the Gentlemans house: Whereupon the Doctors

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credit still more and more began to increase, so that all the countrie round about told no small tales of the great cunning of Doctor Pinchbacke, to whom they resorted early and late.

It fortuned soone after there was a Faire neere to the Gentlemans house, where the people diuerslу talked of the Doctors skill and cunning, and that he could doe anie thing, or tell anie thing that was done in anie place. Nate (quoth a plaine Countriman) I will venture twentie Nobles that hee shall not doe it. I will my selfe goe personally to him, and hold something in my hand, and if hee tell me what it is I will lose my money. I take you, sayd one or two, and the wager being layd, awate they went towards the Gentlemans house: and passing thorough a meadow, the man toke vp a Grashopper out of the grasse, and put it into his hand, so close that no man might perceiue it. Then forward they went, and met with Maister Doctor, and they desired him to satisfie them of that secret which was vpon his credite, to tell them what one of the companie held in his hand. Whereunto the Doctor was loth to answer, considering he had no such skill as people bruted abroade: neuertheleſſe he cast in his mind, how he might excuse the matter by some pretie sleight, if he should guesse amisse, and therfore concluded in this sort, he called to mind that his owne name was Grashopper, and if (quoth he) I take him by the hand, I may say hee hath a grashopper in his hand, and yet I may iustly defend it for a truth. Whereupon the Doctor taking him by the hand, said he had a Grashopper in his hand: which being opened was found true. Whereat the Countrimen wondred, and went their wayes. Some said hee was but a coloning knaue: others reported what wonders hee could performe: Some said he could

gae round about the world in a moment, and that he walked euerie night in the aire with spirites: some said hee had a familiar: thus the people gaue their censure; some liking, and others misliking him. And in a word, so manie men, so manie mindes, but the greater part of the countrey admired his deepe knowledge, and published his excellent learninge, so that he became famous amongst the people, and the Gentleman not a little proud of so worthy a guest: in so much that having one onely daughter, whom he loued most entirelie, and as parents most desire their children should match themselues with such, by whom they hope preferment should come, on a date brake his minde to the Doctour in his daughters behalfe, assuring him hee should not onely finde her a loving and dutifull wife, but would giue him foure hundred pounds, and make him assurance of all his land, which was worth (sayd hee) better then two hundred markes a yeare after his decease, if so it would please his worship to accept his kind offer, which hee assured him proceeded of meere loue. The Doctour a while coylie refused the Gentlemans offer, but being earnestly entreated of the Gentleman, he answered him to this effect.

Sir, for your great friendship hitherto and vnexpected kindnesse, at this time I cannot but confesse my selfe much indebted to you: and because you are so importunate with me to marie your daughter (although I protest it is not for my profite) I doe willingly take her to my wife: for I haue (saith hee) refused many faire and personable Gentlewomen in mine owne countrey with large dowries: but to make you part of amends for your vndeserued kindnesse, I here am content to yeeld to your request. The Gentleman humbly thanked him, and prolonged not the

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time I warrant you, but with great expedition hasted the mariage daie: where with great feasting and ioy with his friends they passed that day with much pleasure and musicke.

The Doctour about a moneth after desired the Gentleman for his wives portion, which the Gentleman willingly paid him. When two or three dayes were passed he told the Gentleman hee would goe into his owne countrie to see his friends, and withall prepare and make readie his house (which was let forth to farme) for himselfe to inhabite, and that he would come againe when all things were readie and fetch his wife. The Gentleman was verie vnwilling to leaue the Doctors companie; but seeing the Doctor so importunate, at last yelded, and so lent the Doctor and his boy two of his best geldings: who as sone as they were on horsebacke, neuer minding to returne againe, toke their iourney into Demonshire, and there so long as his foure hundred pounds lasted made merie with their companions, till at last hauing spent all, beganne to renue his olde trade, and after being taken in companie with some suspected persons was apprehended, and by the law (as I heard) was condemned to bee hanged for a murtherer.

Thus although peradventure hee was not guiltie of the murther, yet it was a iust punishment for his villanie before practised.

The Gentleman after a quarter of a yeare was past, beganne to loke for the Doctors comming home againe, but in vaine; so her passed a twelue moneth, expecting his sonne in lawes returne: at last as happe was one of the Gentlemans acquaintance hauing beene at his house, and seeing the Doctor there, brought word home to the Gentleman that hee sawe the Doctor

tor for certaine executed at Exeter in Devonshire, for a murder. In what a melancholy humour the Gentleman was in, and what griefe and sorrowe the young Gentlewoman toke to heart at these heauie tidings, I refer it to the Reader, and none but those that haue tasted of those griefes doe sufficiently know.

FINIS.